

2nd Saturday. Flower arrangers' show.

3rd Saturday. Demonstration of culture: Techniques.

4th Saturday. Show of Commercial Growers of Los Angeles County featuring recent award winners.

Months featuring other plants would follow a similar pattern for the Saturday programs.

In addition to these general educational activities, classes in gardening and horticulture will be held. Within the next three years it is planned to establish a school for professional gardeners by using the apprentice or trainee system supplemented with classes.

In cooperation with public schools, a gardening and nature study program for children will be initiated to utilize fully the gardens.

The gardens also will be available for other educational and cultural events of the County.

In keeping with the long established policy of governmental educational insti-

tutions, there will be no admission charge and so the gardens will be of greater use to more people than heretofore.

A group of public spirited private citizens who are particularly interested in the development of Descanso Gardens are now organizing as a supporting unit. It is anticipated they will be affiliated with the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. which sponsors the Arboretum at Arcadia.

This brief outline of the proposed new program is in the early stages of planning. Suggestions and comments will be welcomed at any time. It is expected that about three years of actual experience will be needed to determine finally the role Descanso Gardens can play in our County. It is believed that if the philosophy of this program is successfully presented the results will be valuable and rewarding to the County as a whole. Certainly there must be just about as many of our people interested in gardening as there are in baseball. After all, home and civic beautification has nothing on the debit side and everything to gain for all of us.

## BONSAI

JOAN CASE

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, marks the opening of the first major Bonsai exhibit ever to be staged in the United States. The California Bonsai Society, headed by John Naka, will present the First Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the California Museum of Science and Industry, Exhibition Park, Los Angeles.

Opening on Sunday, the exhibition will continue for one week through Sunday, May 4. Hours for the exhibition will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, admission free.

Bonsai, ancient Japanese art form, are miniature representations of nature, in which beauty and health are essential. Age, alone, is not the important factor.

The Bonsai are grown in a container in a controlled manner. This is an unnatural environment for the specimen and as a result horticultural problems arise. The character of growth of such specimens is controlled, in part, by the culturalist through the selective pruning of both the branch and root structure, through a careful feeding program and by satisfying a varying range of microclimatic requirements.

Aesthetically, the specimen is controlled, to an extent, by traditional patterns governing the shaping of the specimen and its relationship to the container and supporting earth. Also it is controlled, to an extent, by the culturalist's own individuality and interpretation of nature.

This first exhibition is being staged for a dual purpose; namely, to encourage greater interest and understanding on the part of the general public about these miniature trees. And to afford the Bonsai enthusiasts an opportunity to exhibit their outstanding specimens and to gain greater knowledge about the complex art involved in Bonsai.



The exhibition will include the following displays: 1) a landscape introduction, 2) Bonsai native of Japan, 3) Bonsai native of the United States, 4) Bonsai from local nurseries, 5) photo murals, 6) horticultural problem, 7) demonstration sequence, 8) Bonsai as a work of art, 9) Bonsai as formal and 10) several individual Bonsai displays.

All of the Bonsai entered in this exhibition were developed by local Bonsai "men" who have adapted the art to the California horticultural environment.

*Director, Public Relations  
Museum of Science and Industry  
Exposition Park, Los Angeles*



*Acer palmatum*—Japanese maple. The container specimen is seven years old; however, the original tree was about 40 years old. Height of the plant above the container level is 23 inches. Specimen and photo by John Y. Naka.





*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*—Dawn Redwood. A genus of a single species. Before being prepared as a bonsai specimen this tree was six to seven feet tall. Now seven years old in the container, it measures 15 inches. Specimen and photo by John Y. Naka.

## LILACS ON THE DESERT

FRANCIS H. BOURNE

THE CALIFORNIA DESERT region is a never ending surprise nursery for plants, native or otherwise. We, therefore, should not be startled to learn that there is one region of the desert which supports a thriving industry of lilac production. The following lines

will introduce our readers to the history and present day activities centered around lilac growing in the desert community of Palmdale, California.

Lilacs were first brought to the Antelope Valley in the 1860's. The original bushes





Case, Joan. 1959. "Bonsai." *Lasca leaves* 9, 39–41.

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